



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Digger Butte Fire Lookout Station – Tower Relocation/Surplus Property Disposal		
PROJECT LOCATION	From: Digger Butte FLS SE1/4 of NE1/4 Section 29, T30N, R2E, MDBM	To: Davis Mobile Equipment Facility 5950 Chiles Road Davis, CA 95618	COUNTY From: Tehama To: Yolo
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire)		
CONTACT ADDRESS	Mike Duggan, CalFire, Senior Civil Engineer P.O. Box 944246 Sacramento, CA 94244-2460	PHONE	(916) 324-1642

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The lookout tower and cab at the Digger Butte Fire Lookout Station will be dismantled, relocated, and rebuilt at the CalFire Davis Mobile Equipment Facility in Davis, CA. The rehabilitated lookout tower will be relocated at the south end of the lawn area in the middle of the Davis Mobile Equipment Facility to preserve the lookout for its historical and public educational values. The dismantling and transport to Davis is likely to occur in 2009-2010. The rehabilitation and re-build of the tower and cab at the new site will be done over time, as funds are available, but shall be completed within 5 years following its relocation to Davis. Digger Butte Fire Lookout Station has been closed since 1991. The buildings are deteriorating from natural weathering and vandalism. A plan to transfer this property back to Lassen National Forest (LNF) where the lookout would be rehabilitated on-site failed when the LNF refused to accept the property transfer they had previously had agreed to (this is an isolated 40-acre parcel, below and outside of the main LNF lands, which would be difficult for LNF to manage). The associated vehicle garage and redwood water tank and wooden shed will be removed from the property as well during the lookout removal and the 40-acre parcel of State land will be declared surplus and sold.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 1 §15301 Minor Alterations of Existing Public Facilities and 12 §15312 Surplus Government Property Sales
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The Digger Butte lookout tower, built in 1936, is recorded as a significant historical resource. Its protection and management is specified in a statewide Management Plan for CalFire's historic buildings which was adopted following certification of an Environmental Impact Report (SCH #1999021015). Although that Plan/EIR indicates the lookout was to be preserved through its transfer to LNF, this revised plan to relocate and restore it at Davis carries-out the intent which is to preserve the lookout for its historical/interpretive values. The new site for the tower is on an existing landscaped facility. CalFire has determined that no environmental impacts will occur during the dismantling of the buildings at Digger Butte, the transport of the tower and cab to Davis, or its reconstruction and use at the new site. The surplus property disposal is covered under Class 12 of the Categorical Exemptions to CEQA.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING




William E. Snyder, Deputy Director

9/3/09
Date